

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 19**  
**INCIDENT NO. 96-37**  
**DATE: June 5, 1996      TIME: 1:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued for Devils Lake, Incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: Traill County officials reported four lift stations failed in the cities of Hillsboro and Buxton during the May 17 storm. The Sheriff's Office, Jail and Dispatch Center was flooded with water.

Flooding that occurred May 16-17 washed out a bridge in Beaulieu Township in Pembina County.

The second crest of the Red River at Pembina, due to the rains of May 16-18, occurred May 27 at a level of 44.9 feet M.S.L. This was about 6 ½ feet less than the spring flood crest at Pembina, which occurred April 29, 1996, at 51.45 feet M.S.L. The May 27 crest at Pembina was about two feet below levels forecasted by the National Weather Service.

The N.D. State Farm Service Agency issued a Preliminary Damage Assessment report as submitted by counties most affected by flooding and severe storms up to May 15. Counties in the eastern one-half of the state are generally two weeks or more behind normal in planting. Farm producers in eastern Walsh and Pembina Counties are as much as four weeks behind normal in planting. Problems include: saturated or inundated road bed conditions, which cause detours and limit access to fields; wet or flooded fields; soil erosion; flood debris; delayed pasture growth due to the colder than normal temperatures; flooded pasture and hayland; flood-contaminated water wells; and flood-damaged farm structures. Recent severe storms have compounded agricultural damage. The full impacts of the damage may not be determined for months.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:  
  
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.  
  
STATE: No change from previous reports.  
  
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Students at the Prairie Learning Center assisted Grant County residents with cleanup efforts after the May 16 storm.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Based on a request from Governor Ed Schafer dated May 20, 1996, President Clinton has

issued a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration today as a result of flooding caused by severe storms; rapid snow melt onto frozen, saturated soils and normal drainage systems; as well as by severe ice jams on rivers and tributaries for 29 North Dakota counties. This declaration was issued under the provisions of Section 401, Public Law 93-288, Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, and implemented by 44 CFR 205.36. The counties are Barnes, Benson, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Eddy, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McLean, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Traill, Walsh and Wells.

A local, state and federal Preliminary Damage Assessment was conducted from May 29 through May 31 in Burleigh, Grant, Morton and Sargent Counties to assess recent storm and flood damages to public infrastructures. This assessment includes damages to power lines owned by Mor-Gran-Sou Rural Electric Cooperative during storms on May 16. A request to add these four counties to today's Major Presidential Disaster Declaration will be submitted to FEMA Region VIII by the State Coordinating Officer.

The Fargo City Commission issued an emergency declaration on May 21.

The N.D. Department of Transportation has begun statewide repair work to highways damaged by spring flooding.

Officials in the cities of Pembina and Drayton continue to monitor river levels. N.D. Highway 66, between Drayton and Robin, has been reopened.

The N.D. Department of Health has distributed mosquito larvicide to 247 cities, six county parks and four state parks to help control mosquitoes, particularly the *Culex tarsalis* species, which can carry Western Equine Encephalitis and St. Louis Encephalitis.

The N.D. Department of Health provided information to Grant County officials information about procedures for removal of debris that resulted from the May 17 storm.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The National Weather Service has reported the level of Devils Lake at 1,437.46 feet M.S.L. on June 5..

On June 1, responsibility for hydrologic reports for the Red River Basin transferred from the Bismarck Office to the Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service. Watches and warnings for the Red River Basin will be issued by the Grand Forks hydrologist and/or meteorologists.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas C. Friez  
State Director